

Subject: Presidential Proclamation

Date: July 2, 2020

On June 22, 2020, President Trump issued a Presidential Proclamation extending and expanding the suspension of certain visas through the end of the year to ensure American workers take first priority as we recover from the economic effects of the coronavirus (see <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspending-entry-aliens-present-risk-u-s-labor-market-following-coronavirus-outbreak/>). This Proclamation includes, among other things, suspension of the entry of aliens to the United States on certain non-immigrant visas, including J visas (with respect to certain Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) categories), through December 31, 2020.

The Proclamation, which entered into effect with respect to certain nonimmigrant visa categories on June 24, affects individuals seeking a J visa in the following six EVP categories: Au Pairs, Camp Counselors, Interns, Teachers, Trainee, and Summer Work Travel. The Proclamation is not retroactive; no valid visas will be revoked under this Proclamation.

The Proclamation applies to visas and entry, not programmatic aspects of the EVP. The Proclamation's suspension provisions do not apply to individuals who were in the United States on June 24, 2020, and they may continue participating in the EVP. In addition, exchange visitors who were outside of the United States on June 24, 2020, and who have a visa in a suspended category that is valid as of June 24, 2020, may travel on that visa until it expires. Exchange visitors in one of the covered categories in "active" status in SEVIS who were outside the United States as of June 24, 2020, and do not have a visa in one of the suspended categories that is valid as of June 24, 2020, or an official travel document other than a visa that is valid as of June 24, 2020, are subject to the Proclamation, and their entry remains suspended. EVP categories not listed in the Proclamation will continue to operate as usual, to the extent U.S. embassies and posts may provide visa services, travel restrictions are relaxed, and exchange visitors' home countries do not pose any other limitations that would prevent an exchange visitor from traveling. We will continue to provide additional program guidance as it is developed; please refer to <https://j1visa.state.gov/covid-19/>.

The Department thanks the sponsor community for its ongoing support for the EVP and its exchange visitors. When the pandemic struck, you helped those who wished to go home with their often difficult travel arrangements. You have continued to keep informed and you have aided those exchange visitors who either chose to remain on program or could not repatriate. This vital assistance has been key to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of thousands of exchange visitors.

We particularly value our sponsor partners during these trying times as we face the challenges of COVID-19 together. The Department's confidence in the value of international exchanges has not been shaken by the pandemic. To the contrary, the need for mutual understanding is stronger than ever, and we believe that the EVP will emerge from this pandemic as a resilient and cohesive public diplomacy tool.

Please enjoy the July 4th weekend with family and/or friends (virtual or not) as we reflect on the meaning of this holiday and the great promise our liberty continues to fulfill.

Sincerely,

Office of Private Sector Exchange